

From: Mahlon Tate
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/6/02 9:51pm
Subject: Comment on Microsoft settlement

As a person who works in a school district, i resent the implication that Microsoft's "volunteering" to donate equipment and software to needy schools is a step toward resolving the suit against Microsoft.

Schools are so desperate for any kind of technology in many cases that they would be happy to have the workstations and software; however, the point is slowing down a monster of a company's monopoly, not helping schools. The very act of donating the equipment and software further entrenches Microsoft technology in schools, as well as helping to build a future consumer base. It isn't too big a reach to liken this to the tobacco industry's shameless attempts to addict as many young people to cigarettes as possible.

Not that it matters, but as a Mac user, this has gone on so long that I am sick of it. Big money wins every time. To say otherwise, unless you break this company up and force it to open source it's code, as the Mac has done with system X, is to ask for a monopoly to grow rather than to reduce it. People want a choice, rather than being forced to use a product that is bug prone, security weak, and over priced.

Mahlon Tate
Instructional Technology Specialist
3150 McCart, Suite 16
Fort Worth, TX 76110
Office phone: 817-207-6796
Fax: 817-922-6967
Email: mtate@ftworth.isd.tenet.edu